Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 FBOE-00 HA-05 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 /077 W

-----034125 130002Z /73

R 121741Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8420
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 2975

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, SHUM, ES

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTR EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER INCIDENT WHICH

MAY HAVE BEEN INITIAL ATTEMPT TO OCCUPY OUR EMBASSY

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2368

- 1. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM REFTEL AND OTHER REPORTING THAT RECENT WEEKS HAVE SEEN PEACEFUL OCCUPATION BY HUMAN-RIGHTS DEMONSTRATORS OF FOUR FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN SAN SALVADOR, OF RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS, AND OF UNITED NATIONS OFFICES. OUR EMBASSY HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS FUTURE TARGET OF SUCH ACTION.
- 2. ON FRIDAY, JUNE 9, EARLY MORNING HOURS SAW A GROUP OF SEVEN MEN APPROACH EMBASSY AND ATTEMPT INGRESS ALLEGEDLY TO PICK UP SALVADORAN PASSPORTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND US VISAS WHICH WOULD BE AWAITING THEM THERE.
VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE GROUP AROUSED SUSPICION. A
COMBINATION OF REGULAR AND SOME FORTUITOUS FACTORS
CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR BEING STOPPED AFTER THEY HAD
PENETRATED EMBASSY GROUNDS BUT BEFORE ENTERING BUILDING
ITSELF. THEY WERE THEN ESCORTED OUTSIDE EMBASSY GATE
TO PUBLIC SIDEWALK WHERE THEY REMAINED TALKING TO

NATIONAL POLICE AGENT FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES BEFORE DISPERSING.

- 3. WHILE WE CANNOT SAY FOR SURE THAT THIS WAS ATTEMPT AT PEACEFUL OCCUPATION OF OUR EMBASSY, CONSENSUS OF THOSE US AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHO WITNESSED THE INCIDENT IS THAT IT DID REPRESENT SUCH AN INCIPIENT EFFORT.
- 4. ON EVENING OF JUNE 9, FOREIGN MINISTER PHONED ME AT HOME TO SAY THAT INCIDENT HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION, TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN, AND TO REQUEST DETAILS. AFTER HEARING MY DESCRIPTION OF WHAT OCCURRED, HE EXPRESSED HIS SYMPATHY AND ASSURED ME OF READINESS OF GOES TO BE OF ASSISTANCE AT ANY TIME WE MIGHT REQUIRE IT IN THE FUTURE. DEVINE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EMBASSIES

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, SHUM, ES, US

To: STATE Type: TE

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released **US Department of State** EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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